Claims

1. Method for improved inter-domain routing between packet-
oriented networks, according to which

5   traffic to be transmitted to a destination outside a packet-
based network is distributed by one or more edge nodes of the
network over a plurality of inter-domain links, the links
connecting the packet-oriented network to one or more other
packet-oriented networks via which the traffic is forwarded to

10   the destination.

2. Method for determining alternative paths for multipath
routing in a packet-oriented network, which method includes the
distribution of packets over a plurality of links connecting

15   different packet-oriented networks, wherein
- a calculation method is used by means of which alternative
paths between two nodes of the network can be calculated, and
- to calculate alternative paths for routing to a destination,
the calculation method is used for a node of the network and an

20   edge node of a neighboring network which is reachable via a
plurality of links used for routing to the destination and
connecting the network to the neighboring network.

3. Method for determining paths for multipath routing in a

25   packet-oriented network, which method includes the distribution
of packets over a plurality of links connecting different
packet-oriented networks, wherein
- to calculate the paths for routing to a destination, edge
nodes of other networks which are reachable via a plurality of

30   links used for routing to the destination are combined to form
a single virtual node.

4. Method as claimed in claim 3,
characterized in that

- to calculate the distribution weighting for routing to a
destination, edge nodes of other networks which are reachable
via a plurality of links used for routing to the destination
are combined to form a single virtual node.

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5. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
- for routing to the destination lying outside the network, at
least two edge nodes of the packet-oriented network are
10   specified from which the traffic can be forwarded to the
destination, and
- for routing within the network for traffic to be transmitted
to the destination, splitting among the specified edge nodes is
performed.

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6. Method as claimed in claim 5,
characterized in that
- splitting is performed by distributing the traffic over a
plurality of paths within the network.

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7. Method as claimed in one of the claims 5 or 6,
characterized in that
- splitting is performed by distributing the traffic over
different MPLS (multiprotocol label switching) paths leading to
25   the edge nodes.

8. Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that
- in the event of a disturbance affecting the links
30   connecting the packet-oriented network to another packet-
oriented network, e.g. due to failure of a network element
or overloading, a re-distribution of traffic over the
links is performed to counteract the disturbance.